Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended)~~: Claim 1. (Currently Amended)~~. A connector for electrically connecting a mating object, the connector comprising:

a conductive contact;

a housing fixedly holding the contact;

a cover connected to the housing for pressing the mating object against the contact to establish electrical connection between the mating object and the contact; ~~and~~

a locking mechanism connected to the housing and the cover for keeping the cover in a connected state in which the electrical connection is established, the locking mechanism comprising a housing locking mechanism coupled to the housing and a cover locking mechanism connected to the cover, the housing locking mechanism and the cover locking mechanism being adapted to be mechanically engaged with each other in the direction opposite to the first direction and in the second direction, the cover being held on the housing to be rotatable in a first direction and to be movable in a second direction intersecting the first direction, the locking mechanism being

engaged in a direction opposite to the first direction and in the second direction, disconnection of the mating object being carried out by rotating the cover in the first direction to disengage the locking mechanism and by moving the cover in the second direction, thereby allowing the mating object to be disconnected[.]; and

a lock plate fixed to the housing, the lock plate being made of a metal material and having the housing locking mechanism and a ground-connecting portion for connecting the ground, the cover and the cover locking mechanism being made of a metal material.

Claim 2 (previously presented). The connector according to claim 1, further comprising an elastic member coupled between the housing and the cover for continuously urging the cover in the direction opposite to the first direction.

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended). The connector according to claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the housing locking mechanism has a recess portion opened in the first direction, the cover locking mechanism being fitted to the recess portion when engaged with the housing locking mechanism.

Claim 5 (previously presented). The connector according to claim 4, wherein said housing locking mechanism has plural engaging portions for being engaged with the cover locking mechanism in directions different from one another, the engaging portions defining the recess portion.

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (previously presented). The connector according to claim 1, further comprising a frictional locking arrangement for flexibly locking the cover to the housing in the second direction by friction.

Claim 8 (previously presented). The connector according to claim 1, wherein the cover has a first and a second end portion which are opposite to each other, the cover comprising a shaft portion formed integral with the first end portion of the cover and rotatably engaged with the housing.

Claim 9 (previously presented). The connector according to claim 8, wherein the shaft portion is movable along the housing in the second direction.

Claim 10 (previously presented). The connector according to claim 9, wherein the housing has a housing protrusion facing the cover shaft portions in a third direction perpendicular to the first and the second directions, the housing protrusion and the shaft portion being slidable to each other to produce resistance force relative to movement of the shaft portion in the second direction.

Claim 11 (previously presented). The connector according to claim 8, wherein the locking mechanism being adapted to engage the second end portion of the cover with the housing in the direction opposite to the first direction and in the second direction.

Claim 12 (canceled).